

Review of Deer Management Assistance Programs (15 states were polled)						
States	Kentucky	Delaware	Virginia	Arkansas	Mississippi	Louisiana
Website	http://fw.ky.gov/deermgt.asp	http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/Hunting/Pages/DeerDamageAssistance.aspx	http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/deer/dmap.asp	http://www.agfc.com/species/Pages/SpeciesConservationProgramsDMAP.aspx	http://www.mdwfp.com/wildlife-hunting/deer-program/deer-management-assistance-program.aspx	http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/hunting/deer-management-assistance-program
Services offered	Additional antlerless deer tags, instruction in data collection and analysis, and preparation of property-specific deer management plans.		Technical assistance/education. After a probation year, they are set up as a check station and given free antlerless deer tags. We give the data sheet and jaw tags and in return they collect biological data on all the deer they kill.	Depending on the level of DMAP participation, we provide free technical habitat assistance, free harvest reports, and free harvest recommendations. Level 1A provides assistance for depredation issues.	If someone is enrolled in DMAP we conduct site visits as requested and provide habitat modification recommendations and harvest recommendations for the individual property based on the landowner/lease holder's management objectives. We age jawbones, prepare individual harvest reports for properties, conduct spring herd health evaluations on some properties, and will assist analyzing camera surveys.	Harvest data analysis, browse and habitat surveys, harvest and habitat management recommendations, other technical assistance as requested or needed for deer and or habitat/forest management.
Enrollment requirements	Annual renewal is required and we can track antlerless harvest on an enrolled property with our Tele-check System. If a landowner consistently fails to give out/use the permits they are issued, our staff politely suggest to them that should just drop out of the program and have their guests/hunters purchase their antlerless permits over-the-counter.		A probation year where they have to collect data	There are four levels of assistance with DMAP. Level of assistance will be based on management objectives and acreage may be used as guideline. High fence enclosures are eligible for DMAP. Level I, II and III must collect biological data.	We request that properties harvest a minimum of 10 does annually to remain enrolled. And that they turn in data on all deer harvested on the property.	Minimum acreages by tier, 40, 500, 1000
Fees	We do not charge for this program/service.		No, but if I had to do it over I would have an application fee (\$25 or 50). I would not charge by tag or acre. This would keep some of the "less serious" cooperators out. We did this in the late 1980's when I was in SC and the money was earmarked to the deer program	We used to charge a flat \$25 per club for the entire year. We no longer require that fee. Our DMAP program is free of charge.	There are no cost to landowners.	Yes, Flat fees based on acreage
Are public properties eligible?	Yes, although, to date, none (or almost none) have		Yes	We do not have any large public entities such as county forests, parks, etc. enrolled but we do work with cities who may be experiencing urban deer problems	Yes. We work with MS Forestry Commission lands, US Army properties, and National Wildlife Refugees	no
Are harvest permits offered?	Following established protocols and issuance rates, our agency's Private Lands Wildlife Biologists and our Game Wardens issue Deer Control Tags (which are extra/bonus Antlerless Only Permits and are also free of charge).		Antlerless only. They can distribute as they see fit. We do not have it in code or law, but we would not allow a cooperator to "sell" a DMAP tag. With that said a couple are commercial hunting operations (these type operations are very uncommon in VA).	Yes, both. These tags are issued directly to the DMAP clubs by the local DMAP biologist to be used only on the enrolled DMAP property. The club has to provide a map of the property when enrolling and any changes to the DMAP club boundaries have to reported to the appropriate biologist.	Yes. We provide antlerless tags and management buck tags. We mail them to the cooperators free of charge. The number and need for the tags for individual properties is up to the DMAP biologist. Not all cooperators get tags.	Yes- both, Allocated by acreage amount and habitat productivity/harvest data
Benefits of DMAP	While our Deer Control Tag project allows our agency to be responsive and quickly provide a low-cost, low-technology solution to local deer damage problems (thus helping to keep the Kentucky Farm Bureau and, by extension, the Kentucky State Legislature off of our backs about crop damage complaints and deer/vehicle collisions), in the 11 Seasons since 2000-01 we still haven't killed enough female deer in our Zone 1 Counties (where densities exceed 30 deer per square mile) to be able to take them back down to our Zone 2 designation (i.e., where [at 20 to 30 deer per square mile] we'd like to maintain them).		Great program			Fundamental program that links landowners to LDWF, baseline statewide deer data
It is popular? Is it achieving the desired effects?	While we annually harvest a total of approximately 2,000 deer (across our four Deer Management Zones) via our Special Antlerless (or Deer Control) Tag program, we remain unsuccessful at taking enough of the female segment of the population to reduce deer numbers in our 36 Zone 1 Counties (note, we have a total of 120 Counties in Kentucky). So, while it is somewhat popular (at least the Crop Damage Management portion of the project), I would have to answer "no, not completely" to the second portion of your two-part question.		Yes, regionally. Successful; from my perspective absolutely yes, but only if you understand that DMAP is as much a public relations program as it is a biological program.			Holding its own, dropped substantially from old days when either sex harvest opportunities were much less. It is achieving the desired effects.
Disadvantages of DMAP. What would you change?	While not as badly as before we liberalized antlerless harvest opportunity (when we simplified our deer zoning structure for/with our 2000-01 Deer Season), some of the interest in our antlerless tag program just seems to be landowners trying to obtain free antlerless permits for their friends and family, or simply asking for something because they know it exists, etc. More importantly, printing these Special Antlerless Permits (and Instruction Sheets), and then mailing them to our Private Lands Wildlife Biologists and Game Wardens (who, in turn, distribute them to the crop damage complainants and DMAP cooperators) each year is expensive and consumes staff time that would be better spent attending sportsman's club meetings or writing deer management-related magazine articles, press releases, and blogging on deer enthusiast chat rooms. With that in mind, however, we are contemplating trying to develop some type of "tagless" (i.e., electronic/Internet-based) system for implementation in our 2013-14 Deer Season.		Can require substantial time and resources in selected areas. I would have an application fee and an acreage minimum. I might have an acreage minimum exception for small areas where their stated deer objective is to significantly reduce the deer herd.			None. We recently reorganized. Would like to see it get more evenly distributed across habitat regions. Most popular in rich habitats where older aged bucks are targeted.
Initial start up cost	Not known, but (given that DMAP responsibilities are handled by our existing Private Lands staff; we don't have any 100% DMAP biologists) they must have been extremely small.		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Annual maintenance costs	Approximately \$6,000 annually (i.e., printing and distribution of tags and instruction sheets, field staff site visits and antlerless tag issuance, and expenses related to maintaining and using our Tele-check Game Harvest Reporting System).		2006-\$107,000 2007-\$102,000 2008-\$102,000 2009-\$76,000 2010-\$96,000 2011-\$77,000 2012-\$71,000	We spend approximately \$16,000 each year on jawbone tags, printing of data ledgers, observation books, and supplying plastic deer tags for bonus deer tags related to DMAP	Unknown	Salaries, benefits , supplies, etc 2010-\$134,000. 2011-\$149,000. 2012-\$224,000.
How long has DMAP been offered?	Not really applicable (i.e., we have no real DMAP), but we have had the current version of our Deer Control Tag project (of which our DMAP efforts are a subset) since our 1997-98 Deer Season.		24	We have provided some form of deer technical assistance to landowners since the mid 1990's, but the current DMAP program in AR was started in around 2000.	32	30+
Number of full time staff devoted to DMAP	None		None. I coordinate it on a statewide basis and it takes me out 200-300 hours each year. We typically have about 15 district biologists that handle the region/district DMAP responsibilities. We are currently down to 12.	Right now we have 14 biologists and 1 administrative assistant that help implement the program. Two of those 14 are the deer program coordinator and the assistant deer program coordinator, 8 are private lands biologists who have other duties related to Farm Bill etc., and 3 are regional wildlife staff who assist with DMAP.	Currently we have 4 Deer Program Biologists. Their primary job junction in deer related technical guidance and DMAP is the deer technical guidance program. These 4 do other things deer related, but DMAP is their primary responsibility.	Conceptually -1
What percentage of your local field staffs' time is devoted to DMAP?	≤10%		The amount of time spent by each biologist varies very widely depending on the number of DMAP cooperators they have. Some have very low numbers 10-20 and some have 120-140. The ones that have 140 are spending up to 20% of their time on DMAP. We are very seriously considering DMAP cooperator numbers (just telling people no) for these high volume biologists.	Of the field folks who actually work directly with the landowners, I would estimate that 40% of their time is spent on DMAP. Realize that some portions of the year that % may be 90% (i.e. when jawbones start rolling in, reports are being generated).	90%	Two deer program biologists spend approx. 30-50%, 13 field biologist spend approx. 10-20%
Number of properties enrolled	About 300, and (combined) they control approximately 30,000 acres. Note, these figures include all deer damage complainants that receive Deer Control (= Special Antlerless) Tags because (as mentioned above) that effort (along with our liberal over-the-counter antlerless opportunities) essentially fills the DMAP role in our state.		About 860 cooperators and about 1.4 million acres.	Approximately 772 clubs, 9000 participants, and 1.5 million acres enrolled	559 cooperators on 1,327,950 acres. This does not include Wildlife Management Areas or National Wildlife Refuges (there are 45 WMAs/NWRs).	Approx. 750 Approx. 1.5 million acres
Revenue generated	None.		None, but it does not cost much either, especially when you look at the big picture	Zero	Zero	\$123,000 in fees for 2012
Comments?	Finally, while I feel that DMAP is a wonderful concept, when "Data Collection" consistently rates in the bottom third of responses to the annual Quality Deer Management Association's Member Interest Survey (i.e., Habitat Management, Food Plot Techniques, and Crop/Plant Profiles were identified as the top three interest areas in the 2006 Survey), I am skeptical that enough deer hunters can ever be converted to "deer managers" for it to truly work on a landscape scale. However, I certainly/fervently hope that I am proven wrong about that contention, but I don't believe that I will be.	We do not have a true DMAP program in Delaware. We offer two crop damage assistance programs to farmers but basically we provide additional antlerless deer tags and allow them to harvest deer outside of the regular hunting season. We do not have the manpower to really work with any of the enrollees to truly implement a management program like would be accomplished through DMAP.		A couple of years ago we (the AGFC) went to a telecheck system for recording deer harvests. Prior to that we would collect biological data at deer check stations. Now about 90% (~9000 records) of our biological data is acquired from our DMAP clubs statewide. DMAP also gives us an opportunity to build important landowner relationships and work with folks one-on-one to improve habitat for numerous species besides deer. This relationship has also allowed us to collect winter herd health data and routine CWD testing samples. DMAP can be a burdensome program, but we are working to streamline the process by making it as electronic as possible and by promoting management co-ops between adjoining landowners. DMAP is a very popular program in AR. It has gotten to the point that guidelines will have to be formulated to restrict enrollment in order to align workloads with the amount of assistance that we can offer...too many interested clubs, not enough staff. I hate to do that, but it appears that we may have to draw a line in the sand. As far as achieving the desired effects, I would say yes. In a state that was harvesting primarily (≥65%) 1.5 year old bucks and had a very restrictive doe harvest in the mid 1990's to harvesting (≥60%) 3.5+ old bucks on our DMAP clubs and effectively reducing buck:doe ratios to 1:3 or better in many of these areas, I would say that DMAP is working well. Most importantly though DMAP has helped to make for better deer hunters, better deer managers, and better land stewards. Better educated deer hunters make for better educated deer managers.		